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McCall Middle Schooler Jack Ronan offers customized Wiffle ball bats

CHARLENE BAND | CONTRIBUTOR

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Jack Ronan displays a few of his customized bats. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/CHARLENE BAND

Thirteen-year-old Jack Ronan, an eighth-grade student at McCall Middle School, is a Wiffle ball expert. In his spare time, he makes custom[illegible] for friends and local teams.

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Wiffle bats come in assorted colors, but they are unadorned. Ronan wanted to turn bats into something special, and he did. He customizes Wiffle bats by meticulously and individually wrapping them in distinct colors of tape and adds decorations and icons to really make them “pop.”

“I have been playing Wiffle ball for many years,” Jack says. “It’s a fun game for kids of all ages, even really little kids who are only 5 years old.”

A bat for the Massachusetts State Police by Winchester resident Jack Ronan. COURTESY PHOTO/JACK RONAN

Bats and balls are plastic, so injuries are rare. Kids are limited to pitching at a maximum of 20 to 30 mph. If this rule is broken, there is a “speed check” warning.

Wiffle ball, which was invented in 1953, is a more prominent spo commonly perceived. Competitive play has grown substantially. There are

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80 to 100 adult leagues in the United States, according to industry experts.

One of the things Ronan likes about his game is it teaches people how to work in teams and support each other. Players must take it seriously, but it *is* a game, and everyone should have fun.

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Ronan thoughtfully added that if a kid has mobility problems, T-Ball can be a fun possibility for them. It is affordable too. All you need is a plastic bat and ball.

People want customizable Wiffle ball bats for performance, seeking designs that improve power, and bat speed, and for personalization, adding custom colors, wraps, or names for fun, gifts, or team identity.

The kids who buy a bat from Ronan tell him colors they like. His customers range in age from 6 to eighth grade students. But it is not just kids who want customized bats, the Massachusetts State Police recently bought several from Ronan.

Ronan and his friends play the game in the fields around Winchester, but they must book playing time in advance.

When a field is available at McCall, Ronan and his friends organize a pick-up game. If there are just a few people available to play, there is always someone's backyard.

The balls and bats are plastic, and no one needs to worry about broken windows. Wiffle ball is a three-season game. Ronan says it would be fun to play in winter weather.

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Winchester resident Charlene Band is a Town Meeting member.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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